

Resources for Fair and Affordable Housing

A listing of housing related resources for the City of Brockton, including fair housing enforcement advocacy, and housing education.

Fair Housing Enforcement:

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination

Boston Office: (617) 994-6000

Springfield Office: (413) 739-2145

Worcester Office: (508) 799-8010

<http://www.mass.gov/mcad>

[See also information in Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole]

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination is the state's chief civil rights agency. The Commission works to eliminate discrimination in housing, lending, public accommodation, as well as employment and education, and strives to advance the civil rights of the people of the Commonwealth through law enforcement, outreach and training.

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

Boston Office: (617) 727-2200; TTY: (617) 727-4765

Springfield Office: (413) 784-1240

New Bedford Office: (508) 990-9700

Worcester Office: (508) 792-7600

<http://www.ago.state.ma.us>

The Attorney General's Office reviews and responds to civil rights complaints alleging deprivations of, or interference with, civil rights and civil liberties. The AGO may bring enforcement action, where appropriate, may mediate disputes, or may refer complainants to other resources.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

(202) 708-1112; TTY (202) 708-1455

Boston Regional Office: (617) 994-8200; TTY (617) 565-5453

<http://www.hud.gov>

HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. HUD programs include community planning and development, affordable housing development, and federal public housing and rental assistance. HUD also enforces federal fair housing laws, including the federal Fair Housing Act.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

(202) 514-2000

<http://www.usdoj.gov>

The Civil Rights Division of the DOJ enforces a variety of federal civil rights laws and is responsible for coordinating the civil rights enforcement efforts of federal agencies whose programs are covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Fair Housing Advocacy and Other Legal Resources:

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.

231 Main Street
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 586-2110
www.sccls.org

SCCLS provides free civil legal services in the areas of housing law, family law, government benefits including social security disability, elder law, education law, and consumer law. SCCLS has staff who are fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. SCCLS can provide other translation services when needed to assist non-English speaking clients.

Massachusetts Fair Housing Center

(413) 539-9796 ext-101 or (800) 675-7309
<http://www.massfairhousing.org>

The Massachusetts Fair Housing Center works to eliminate illegal housing discrimination, conducts advocacy and outreach, and serves tenants, landlords, policymakers, law enforcers, faculty and students.

Disability Law Center of Massachusetts

Boston Office: (617) 723-8455/(800) 872-9992; (617) 227-9464/(800) 381-0577 TTY
Western MA Office: (413) 584-6337; (800) 222-5619; TTY (413) 582-6919
<http://www.dlc-ma.org>

The Disability Law Center (DLC) of Massachusetts provides information, referral, technical assistance and representation regarding legal rights and services for people with disabilities, including access to community services, special education, health care, disability benefits, and rights and conditions in facilities.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

(617) 426-1350
<http://www.glad.org>

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. GLAD has a legal information line that provides information and referrals for people with discrimination issues who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, a transgender, or living with HIV/AIDS.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association, Inc.

(617) 482-1145
<http://www.lawyerscom.org>

The Lawyers' Committee is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan legal organization that provides pro bono legal representation to victims of discrimination based on race or national origin. The Committee also engages in public policy advocacy, community legal education, community economic development, and other legal services that further the cause of civil rights.

Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Information and Requirements:

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

(617) 573-1100; TTY (617) 573-1140

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd>

[Search “Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan Guidelines”]

DHCD provides leadership, professional assistance and financial resources to promote safe, decent affordable housing opportunities, economic vitality of communities and sound municipal management. DHCD provides Community planning and development resources for cities and towns, including resources and support to increase the economic self-sufficiency of their residents. DHCD programs also include affordable housing development, state-aided public housing management and construction, and federal and state rental assistance. It is DHCD’s objective to ensure that new and ongoing programs and policies affirmatively advance fair housing, promote equity, and maximize choice.

Affordable Housing Opportunity Listings:

Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)

(617) 742-0820

<http://www.chapa.org>

[See the “Search for Accessible/Affordable Housing” link for rental listings and the “Looking for Housing” link for homeownership and rental lottery listings]

Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) is the non-profit umbrella organization for affordable housing and community development activities throughout Massachusetts. CHAPA's mission is to encourage the production and preservation of housing that is affordable to low-income families and individuals. CHAPA pursues its goals through advocacy, research, community education and training, and coalition building.

Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA)

(617) 822-9100

<http://www.mahahome.org/index.html>

[See listings of homeownership opportunities at <http://www.massaffordablehomes.org>]

MAHA provides comprehensive homebuyer and homeowner education and a listing of affordable homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income consumers. MAHA works to break down the barriers facing first time homebuyers and increase private and public investment in affordable housing.

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development

(617) 573-1100; TTY (617) 573-1140

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd>

Housing Education, Counseling, and Search Assistance:

HarborOne Credit Union Multicultural Center

Promoting financial independence through education

Learn about borrowing, saving, and more through education and assistance at HarborOne's MultiCultural Banking Center®. The MBC is located at 68 Legion Parkway in Brockton, with classrooms and meeting space, a computer lab and a resource library.

(508) 895-1770

www.harborone.com

Neighborhood Housing Services

First Time Homebuyer Program

508-587-0950

www.neighborhoodhousing.org

Neighborhood Housing Services has had many years of experience working in the housing industry. We have worked in the non-profit arena creating and administering affordable housing programs. Over this period we have assisted hundreds of buyers and have extensive knowledge of down payment and closing costs grants available throughout the state.

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

(617) 573-1100; TTY (617) 573-1140

<http://www.mass.gov/dhcd>

[Search "How to Obtain Housing Assistance"; also see City/Town Resources]

Massachusetts Housing Consumer Education Centers (nine regional offices)

(800) 224-5124

<http://www.masshousinginfo.org>

Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) offer information, referrals, and services concerning a wide range of housing issues. Each of the nine member agencies of the statewide Massachusetts Nonprofit Housing Association acts as the HCEC for its region. These agencies also offer housing assistance, counseling, and other services to low- and moderate-income residents of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

(617) 973-8700; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Users (800) 720-3480; Consumer Hotline

(617) 973-8787 or (888) 283-3757 (toll free MA only)

<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr>

[Search "Approved Counseling Agencies" (homebuyer counseling) and "Foreclosure Resources"; for rental information, search e.g., "Tenant Rights and Responsibilities"]

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR) commits to protecting consumers through advocacy and education. The Division of Banks, Division of Insurance, Division of Professional Licensure, Division of Standards, State Racing Commission, and the Department of Telecommunication and Cable all fall under the OCABR.

Other Resources:

Self Help Inc.

Community Action

Environment & Housing / Healthy Homes Initiative

(508) 588-4049

selfhelpinc.org

The Healthy Homes Initiative is an integrated, comprehensive program that addresses the multiple of safety and health hazards that are found in the home environment.

Old Colony Elder Services

(508) 584-1561

oldcolonyelderservices.org

Old Colony Elder Services offers a comprehensive array of specialized programs which have been developed to address the unique situations and circumstances elders face.

BAMSI Helpline

(508) 584-4357

www.bamsi.org

The Information and Referral (I&R) program at the Helpline assists families to find resources necessary to support basic needs. Helpline developed the first housing advocacy program in the Commonwealth, which was quickly replicated throughout Massachusetts. Helpline was also one of six regional sites that developed the database for which Mass211 was established. Additionally, BAMSI's Helpline has been a recipient of a variety of supportive housing initiatives for a number of years.

Tenancy Preservation Program

(508) 930-5951

fatherbillsmainspring.org

Through Father Bill's & MainSpring's Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP), we work to prevent someone from becoming homeless. TPP was started in response to the large number of people who were being evicted due to disabilities. Tenants with physical or mental disabilities present unique issues for property owners. Our TPP specialists work to resolve the issues that cause someone to become at risk for losing their tenancy.

Who Is Eligible?

- Residents of Plymouth and Bristol Counties
- Tenant or household member must have a disability that is having a negative impact on the tenancy
- Potential for eviction must be imminent

